

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A balancing device attached to a suspended element, comprising:

a shaft rotatably supported on a support;

a pair of opposing pulleys attached to the shaft to be rotatable therewith;

a pair of supporting ropes, one end of each of which being attached to the suspended element, and respective other ends being attached to the pulleys, wherein each of the pulleys comprises a spiral groove onto which respective of the ropes can be rolled for translating the suspended element,

wherein the shaft is linked to an end of an elastic mechanism whose opposite end is attached to a friction disc, wherein the friction disc is rotatably supported on the support and is configured to be blocked against the support, to allow adjustment of a torsion load caused by simultaneous rotation of the pulleys and the shaft, and is provided with a head surface that is inclined with respect to an axis of the shaft and is configured to be rotated against a corresponding head surface of an opposing friction disc to exert an axial pressure on the friction disc, for blocking the friction disc against the support.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 11, wherein the elastic mechanism comprises a spring arranged coaxially with the shaft.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 12, wherein the opposite end of the spring is free and independent with respect to the shaft.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 11, wherein at least one friction ring is provided to increase friction between the friction discs and the support.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 14, wherein the opposing friction disc is rotatably supported on a bush, the bush being supported on the shaft to be axially displaceable with respect to the support, and comprising a shoulder, one of the friction rings being arranged between the shoulder and the opposing friction disc.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 15, wherein another friction ring is arranged between the shoulder and the support.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 11, wherein the blocking of the friction disc against the support leads also to blocking of the rotation of the end of the elastic mechanism, whose opposite end is engaged in the rotation of the shaft put in rotation by the pulleys, every time the suspended element is vertically moved.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 11, wherein the blocking of the friction disc by rotation of the friction disc allows the adjustment of the torsion load required to be provided by the elastic mechanism to balance a weight of the suspended element, in any phase of positioning of the suspended element along its vertical translation.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 11, wherein the elastic mechanism is twined around a drum to provide a larger and wider development surface for the elastic mechanism.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A balancing device for a suspended element, comprising:

a shaft rotatably supported on a support;

a pair of opposing pulleys attached to the shaft to be rotatable therewith, wherein each of the pulleys comprises a spiral groove onto which respective rope of a pair of supporting ropes can be attached and rolled for translating the suspended element;

wherein the shaft is linked to an end of an elastic mechanism whose opposite end is attached to a friction disc, wherein the friction disc is rotatably supported on the support and is configured to be blocked against the support, to allow adjustment of a torsion load caused by simultaneous rotation of the pulleys and the shaft, and is provided with a head surface that is inclined with respect to an axis of the shaft and is configured to be rotated against a corresponding head surface of an opposing friction disc to exert an axial pressure on the friction disc, for blocking the friction disc against the support.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 20, wherein each of the pulleys comprises a spiral groove onto which respective rope of a pair of supporting ropes can be rolled for translating the suspended element, one end of each of the ropes being attachable to the suspended element, and respective other ends being attachable to the pulleys.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 20, wherein the elastic mechanism comprises a spring arranged coaxially with the shaft.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 22, wherein the opposite end of the spring is free and independent with respect to the shaft.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 20, wherein at least one friction ring is provided to increase friction between the friction discs and the support.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 24, wherein the opposing friction disc is rotatably supported on a bush, the bush being supported on the shaft to be axially displaceable with respect to the support, and comprising a shoulder, one of the friction rings being arranged between the shoulder and the opposing friction disc.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 25, wherein another friction ring is arranged between the shoulder and the support.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 20, wherein the blocking of the friction disc against the support leads also to blocking of the rotation of the end of the elastic mechanism, whose opposite end is engaged in the rotation of the shaft put in rotation by the pulleys, every time the pulleys are put in rotation.

Claim 28 (Cancelled).

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 20, wherein the elastic mechanism is twined around a drum to provide a larger and wider development surface for the elastic mechanism.